

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant has amended claims 6 and 9 to overcome the issues raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is in order.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-12, 16 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dawson et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite a mechanical seal for sealing between a rotatable shaft and a stationary housing. The seal includes an axially fixed, rotary seal face member for attachment to the shaft for rotation therewith. The rotary seal face member provides two axially separated and oppositely facing seal faces, with first and second axially floating, stationary seal face members arranged on axially opposite sides of the rotary seal face member. Each of the first and second axially floating, stationary seal face members has a seal face for effecting sliding contact with a respective seal face of the rotary seal face member. The seal also includes means for magnetically biasing the floating seal face members towards the rotary seal face member. The axially floating seal face members and the biasing means are rotationally fixed relative to each other and the axially fixed seal face member is free to rotate relative to the axially floating seal face members.

Accordingly, the mechanical seal, as recited in amended claim 1, has an axially fixed seal face member which is rotatable with the shaft and two axially opposite floating seal face members which are rotationally fixed and which have seal faces which engage oppositely facing seal faces on the axially fixed seal face member.

The advantage of such an arrangement is that there is no requirement for mechanically coupling the rotor to the stator, as in Dawson. Furthermore, the forces within the seal are balanced in that the attracting force acting on one stationary seal face member. Such an arrangement is not suggested by Dawson.

Reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Registration No.: 40,389
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant